

Message Text

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R 180301Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A.

TAGS: ACOM, US, UR

SUBJECT: USA/USSR DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS LINK

REF: NAEHER/MINASHIN LETTER DATED OCT. 29, 1976

1. DEPARTMENT IS VERY CONCERNED AND DISAPPOINTED LACK OF RESPONSE BY DR. MINASHIN TO ISSUES RAISED IN REFERENCED LETTER. WE ARE APPROACHING END OF 1976 AND THE SATELLITE DCL CHANNELS HAVE NOT YET BEEN PUT INTO SERVICE, WHICH WAS THE TARGET DATE ESTABLISHED LAST MOSCOW MEETING.

2. DEPARTMENT DOES NOT WISH TO PROLONG THIS PROJECT ANY LONGER AND THERE IS NO REASON WHY THE DCL SATELLITE CHANNELS CANNOT BE COMMISSIONED. WITH THIS IN MIND, DEPARTMENT PROPOSES FOLLOWING LETTER BE DELIVERED TO DR. MINASHIN.

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3. IF EMBASSY FEELS THIS LETTER WILL NOT BE PRODUCTIVE, THEN IT MAY BE NECESSARY FOR EMBASSY MAKE DIRECT APPROACH TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AT THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL. IN THIS CONNECTION, DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE POST'S ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION AND WILL ACCEPT COURSE OF ACTION YOU RECOMMEND TO GET PROJECT MOVING. PLEASE ADVISE.

4. DRAFT LETTER TO MINASHIN AS FOLLOWS QUOTE.

DEAR DR. MINASHIN:

DURING OUR LAST MEETING IN MOSCOW, WE BOTH AGREED TO ACTIVATE THE US/USSR DCL CHANNELS, TGP-3 AND TGP-4 DURING THE SECOND HALF OF 1976. WE ARE RAPIDLY APPROACHING THE END OF 1976 AND THESE CHANNELS HAVE NOT YET BEEN PUT INTO CONTINUOUS OPERATION. TO MY KNOWLEDGE, THERE IS LITTLE THAT REMAINS TO BE DONE TO DO THIS.

IN MY LETTER TO YOU, DATED OCTOBER 29, 1976, I OUTLINED THESE FEW REMAINING PROBLEM AREAS THAT NEED TO BE TAKEN CARE OF. I AM DISAPPOINTED IN THE LACK OF RESPONSE TO MY LETTER, AND THE DELAY IN GETTING THE PROJECT MOVING BY THE SOVIET SIDE. I AM VERY CONCERNED THAT THERE IS NO APPARENT URGENCY BY THE SOVIET SIDE TO IMPLEMENT THE ACCORDS AGREED TO IN THE MARCH 22, 1976 SUMMARY OF UNDERSTANDING.

IF YOU COULD ARRANGE AND INSURE THAT THE SOVIET OPERATING PERSONNEL AT THE MOLNIYA EARTH STATION COMPLY WITH ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES REGARDING THE HANDOVER SCHEDULES, TGP-3 COULD BE PUT INTO SERVICE WITH NO DELAY. FAILURE ON THE PART OF THE SOVIET SIDE TO COMPLY WITH ESTABLISHED MOLNIYA OPERATING PRACTICES IS ALL THAT PREVENTS ACTIVATION OF TGP-3.

AS TO TGP-4, THERE APPEAR TO BE SOME PROBLEMS WITH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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L'VOV EARTH STATION, WHICH AFFECT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE INTELSAT DCL CHANNEL. THE INSTABILITY OF THIS STATION IS OF CONCERN TO ME AND I WOULD APPRECIATE ADVICE AS TO WHAT THE SOVIET SIDE IS DOING TO CORRECT THESE PROBLEMS.

ALSO, MOST IMPORTANT TO ACTIVATION OF TGP-4 IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE MOSCOW INTELSAT DCL STATION. IS THIS STATION READY FOR USE AGAIN? WHAT IF ANYTHING REMAINS TO BE DONE BEFORE IT CAN BE DECLARED OPERATIONAL FOR DCL USE.

AS WE COME TO THE CLOSE OF 1976, I AM EXTREMELY DISMAYED AND CONCERNED THAT ANOTHER YEAR HAS GONE BY AND THE DCL SATELLITE CHANNELS ARE STILL UNDERGOING TESTING. OUTSIDE OF THE FEW REMAINING PROBLEMS OUTLINED IN MY OCTOBER 29 LETTER WHICH I REITERATE HEREIN AND WHICH I AM CONVINCED CAN BE DISPOSED OF IN A SHORT TIME; I SEE NO REASON WHY THESE CHANNELS CANNOT BE COMMISSIONED SHORTLY. I DON'T BELIEVE IT WILL NOW BE POSSIBLE TO MEET THE YEAR-END

DEADLINE, BUT DO BELIEVE WE CAN DO SO EARLY IN 1977.

PLEASE REVIEW THE SITUATION, AND LET ME HAVE A STATUS
REPORT AS TO WHERE WE STAND ON TGP-3 AND TGP-4. THE U.S.
SIDE IS PREPARED TO PUT THESE CHANNELS INTO SERVICE AS
SOON AS WE GET YOUR CONCURRENCE.

I LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING YOUR REPLY AS SOON AS POSSI-
BLE.

SINCERELY,

WILLIS E. NAEHER
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR COMMUNICATIONS UNQUOTE.
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